

of Columbia that it remains part of the Union and subject to federal antidrug laws.

EMERGENCY FARM ASSISTANCE

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months, I have traveled my district, the 8th District of North Carolina, and spent dozens of hours listening to farmers and ranchers tell me about the state of the farm economy.

In February, I, with the help of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) and the Committee on Agriculture, hosted a field hearing in Laurinburg to learn farmers' concern about the current crop insurance program and what changes they felt needed to be implemented to achieve meaningful reform.

The Committee on Agriculture took the comments of my farmers and the comments from other farmers around the country and passed a bill which addresses their concerns and will strengthen crop insurance and provide better risk management tools for farmers and ranchers.

Crop insurance is just one recent example of how the Committee on Agriculture takes a grass-roots approach in learning about a problem and then, with a bipartisan effort, efficiently works to solve it.

Congress is once again being called upon to listen to what is going on in farm country and respond in a timely and effective manner. After hearing from my farmers, I introduced a bill last week, H.R. 2843, the Emergency Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers Act of 1999. In addition, I call on Members to help pass the emergency spending bill necessary for flooding and drought in crop areas this week.

WHEN TAX DOLLARS ARE USED FOR MORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, THE LIBERALS ARE SILENT

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if Republicans want to provide tax relief to American families, the liberals are outraged. What about the national debt, they shout? But when it comes to more Washington spending, suddenly, the liberals are silent. Not a word is spoken by the liberals about the debt when more spending and bigger government is being debated. Suddenly, it is as if the national debt never existed.

This feigned concern about fiscal discipline and the national debt by the same people who have spent the past 40 years expanding government and accu-

mulating that debt is obviously insincere. Tax relief never, but more government spending, sure. That is the pattern and we see it day in and day out. The less revenue the Government takes in, the less social engineering, the less redistribution of wealth and the fewer new Government programs the left can oversee. That is why they hate tax relief so much.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT KOWTOW TO SPECIAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING DAIRY CARTELS

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the price Americans pay for a gallon of milk is dependent upon how far they live from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Now, this is moodoo economics. In 1996, Congress passed and I supported the Freedom to Farm Act, which directed the Department of Agriculture to create a more market-oriented dairy program. Yet today some in Congress want us to take a step backwards away from reform.

Today's bill would create a costly, burdensome bureaucracy. Dairy cartels are economically inefficient. They are protectionist. They are unfair. They cost the consumer \$1 billion a year. Government should not be subsidizing businesses. We do not do it for computer chip factories or convenience stores. So instead of protecting dairy cartels, we ought to protect America's 250 million American taxpayers and consumers, and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1402. Stop milking our taxpayers. Do not kowtow to special interests.

IF THE PRESIDENT VETOES THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL, HE RAISES THOSE TAXES BACK TO THE LEVEL THEY WERE BEFORE

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask, Is today the day the President is going to raise taxes on married couples, increase the income tax rates, tax educational savings, tax families who want to keep family members in their home who are now of senior age, those who want to purchase health insurance, those who want to purchase long-term care insurance? Is today the day he is going to reinstate the death tax, the alternative minimum tax?

That is right, Mr. Speaker. The Congress has lowered the tax burden on American families, American workers and American business by \$792 billion. If the President vetoes that tax bill, he raises those taxes back to the level

they were before the Congress lowered taxes on American workers, American families, and American businesses.

CONSOLIDATION OF MILK MARKETING ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Pursuant to House Resolution 294 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1402.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1402) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the Class I milk price structure known as Option 1A as part of the implementation of the final rule to consolidate Federal milk marketing orders, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as all Members know, dairy policy debates are contentious and are characterized more often than not by regional as opposed to ideological differences.

The House Committee on Agriculture has endeavored to provide Members on all sides of this issue ample notice and a fair process in which to debate their views and represent the interests of their constituents.

H.R. 1402, as reported, addresses several perceived weaknesses of the final decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as current law. During committee consideration, several amendments were included to deal with concerns over price volatility, manufactured product formula pricing, and price support.

Mr. Chairman, I know Members are split on dairy policy. I am also aware that there is no great sense of camaraderie within the industry on this issue. This is a modest bill which makes some modest changes in the federal dairy program. I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1402.